



INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION United States - Canada

Presentation for

Economic and Environmental Analysis Conflict: Toward Integrated Water Resources Management

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www.ijc.org





The IJC in Brief

- **Unitary Treaty Organization**
- **Six Commissioners - Serve without Instructions**
- **Decides by Consensus**
- **Operates Along the Entire Boundary**
- **Controls Flows in Boundary Waters**
- **Prevents and Resolves Disputes Over Shared Water and Air**
- **Conducts Studies for Governments**
- **Watchdog of Great Lakes Restoration Efforts**



Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909



- **Provided Principles and Mechanisms to Prevent and Resolve Disputes Concerning Water Quantity and Water Quality and Other Environmental Issues Along the U.S.-Canada Boundary**
- **Established the International Joint Commission (IJC)**
- **Limited Levels/Flow-Related Construction in Boundary Waters to that Approved by IJC, Barring Special**



International Joint Commission

Principles of Operation



- **Operation Without Instructions from Governments**
- **Balanced Membership:**
 - Three Commissioners From Each Country
 - Equality on IJC Boards and Working Groups
- **Service in Personal and Professional Capacity**
- **Good Science - Joint Fact Finding**
- **Full Public Involvement**

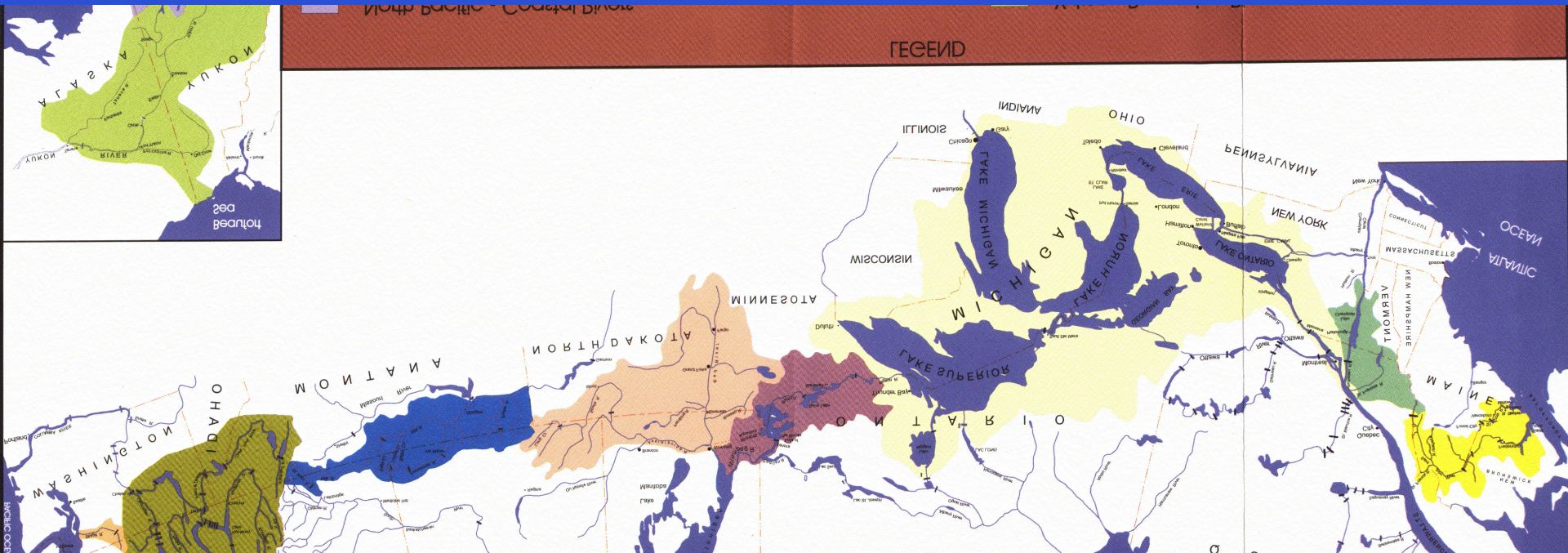


IJC Organization





Transboundary Watersheds





IJC Boards and Task Forces

BOARDS of CONTROL/COMBINED BOARDS/POLLUTION BOARDS

- **International St. Lawrence River Board of Control**
- International Niagara River Board of Control
- International Lake Superior Board of Control
- International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control
- International Rainy Lake Board of Control
- International Rainy River Pollution Advisory Board
- International Lake of the Woods Board of Control
- International Kootenay Lake Board of Control
- International Columbia River Board of Control
- International Air Quality Advisory Board
- International Red River Board *
- International St. Croix River Board *
- International Souris River Board *

** Newly Combined Boards*

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY

- Great Lakes Water Quality Board
- Great Lakes Science Advisory Board
- Council of Great Lakes Research Managers

INVESTIGATIVE BODIES

- Health Professionals Task Force
- St. Mary-Milk Rivers Accredited Officers
- **Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence Study Board**
- Upper lakes Plan of Study Team



Other IJC

Authorities

- **Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978**
- **References from Governments**
- **Orders in Response to Applications**
- **Columbia River Treaty**
- **Rainy Convention**
- **Lake of Woods Convention**



What does the IJC Do?

- Applications
- References

or

- Apportionment
- Oversight of Orders
- Monitoring/Alerting
- Special Reports (References)



Some Specifics

Reports

- State of the Great Lakes Report
- Dam Safety
- Red River Basin – *Living with the Red*
- Watershed Initiative – *IJC and the 21st Century*

Review of Orders

- St. Croix
- Rainy/Namaken
- Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River
- Lake Superior
- Osoyoos



Great Lakes Basin





Regulation of Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River

- Application and reference from Governments
- 1952 IJC Orders, amended 1955
 - Approved construction, maintenance, and operation of project works subject to conditions and criteria
 - Accomplished goals requested by governments
 - Specified regulation plan for determining outflows
 - Established International St. Lawrence River Board of Control



Moses-Saunders Dam



International St. Lawrence River Board of Control

- Ensures outflows in compliance with IJC Orders
- Conducts special studies as requested by IJC
- Sets outflows (regulation plan & deviations)
- Communicates with public
 - Media releases
 - Meetings
 - Conference calls



Factors Prompting Study

- Regulation scheme a half-century old
- Follow-up to recommendations in 1993 IJC report
- Increasing dissatisfaction by some
- Extreme conditions exposing “pinch points”
- IJC decision not to adopt Plan 1998, which proposed changes consistent with IJC Orders
- IJC requested governments’ support to address more comprehensive assessment, including Orders



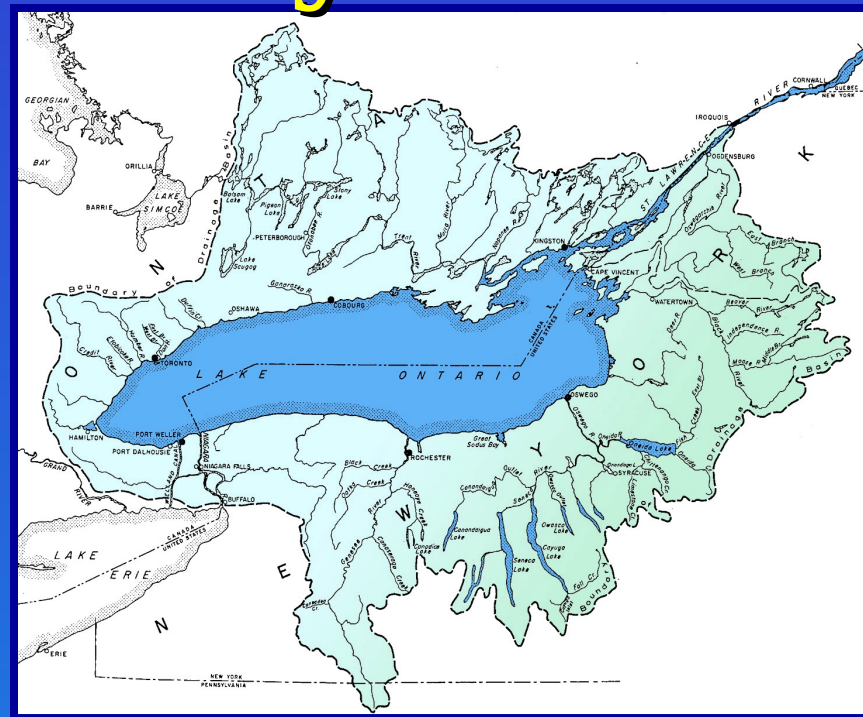
Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study

IJC Conducting Review
to Ensure Appropriate
Treatment of Existing
Interests and
Consideration of:

- Environmental Factors
- New Interests
- Actual Water Supplies
- Climate

5 Year Review (Dec. 2000 - March 2006) - \$20 M

- Technological Advances





Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study

Treaty



Orders



Regulation Plan



Subject to
review



Study Organization

U.S. & Canadian Co-Directors and
Study Board

U.S. & Canadian Study Managers
& Public Affairs Officers

Public Interest Advisory Group
20-24 Members (U.S.-Canadian)
appointed by IJC in consultation
with the Study Board

Technical Work Groups

- Environmental
- Recreational Boating/ Tourism
- Hydrologic Models, Clim. Change & Eval.
- Coastal Zone/ Shore Interests
- Commercial Navigation
- Domestic, Industrial & Municipal Water
- Hydroelectric Power
- Common Data Needs
- Plan Formulation and Evaluation

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Questions?

